Search for MU chancellor will move quickly

Committee to locate Deaton's replacement to be named soon.

By Karyn Spory

Sunday, July 7, 2013 at 2:00 am

Since University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton announced his retirement plans last month, the UM System has laid out an aggressive timetable to find a successor.

During a news conference after Deaton's announcement, UM System President Tim Wolfe said he hoped to have a new chancellor in place by the time Deaton steps down Nov. 15. That date is just more than four months away.

John Fougere, a spokesman for the UM System, said although the timetable for the search might seem short, it is reasonable given the market and the attractiveness of MU for candidates.

"We will not, however, sacrifice quality for time," Fougere said.

Deaton has been on the MU campus since 1989 and has held the title of chancellor since 2004. "It has been a number of years since MU has had a chancellor search," Fougere said.

He said although the system could compare the current search timeline to those conducted on the other three campuses, each campus is different and has "distinct and unique missions" that would attract diverse candidate pools.

"Our focus is on finding excellence for MU as an" Association of American Universities "land-grant institution," he said.

The most recent chancellor search in the UM System was for the Missouri University of Science and Technology. That search committee was appointed in April, and the new chancellor was announced in January.

At the news conference, Wolfe was vague in citing what he would seek in a new chancellor. "We will be looking for an individual who has similar academic and leadership stature," he said.

Fougere said a job description will be developed after Wolfe hosts a series of town-hall meetings over the next few weeks. The dates and locations of the meetings are yet to be announced. Fougere said anyone who wants to understand the process and provide input in the chancellor search is invited to attend.
A search committee will be appointed under Wolfe's direction, Fougere said, and he will work with Betsy Rodriguez, vice president for human resources, as she seeks input from groups including faculty, staff, students, alumni and retirees.

Fougere said there will be "due diligence" to ensure balanced representation of different groups and that the search committee will understand the unique nature of what is needed in a chancellor. He said the university intends to announce the members of the search committee this month, with the committee's first meeting expected in August.
Questions surround MU museum plans

Supporters see Deaton's letter to city as good sign.

By Karyn Spory

Saturday, July 6, 2013 at 2:00 am

"Temporary" is the word supporters of the University of Missouri's Museum of Art and Archaeology and Museum of Anthropology had been waiting to hear since a May announcement that the museums would be moved to accommodate renovations at several historic campus buildings.

A recent letter from MU Chancellor Brady Deaton to the Columbia City Council confirmed that plans to move the museums off campus were temporary, a reassurance he gave in response to a letter from council members stating their desire to see the Museum of Art and Archaeology have a permanent home on campus.

In May, MU announced renovation plans that included pending closures at Pickard Hall, which houses the Museum of Art and Archaeology, and Swallow Hall, the home of the Museum of Anthropology. MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said then that the museums would be relocated off campus to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center building "for the foreseeable future," as the extent of radiation to be dealt with in Pickard Hall is not yet known. The former cancer center building is being renamed Mizzou North.

The lack of a concrete plan for eventually bringing the museums back to campus caused concern for some campus and community members. The Mizzou North site is on Business Loop 70, 2 miles from the MU campus.

"To see the word 'temporary' introduced instead of 'for the foreseeable future,' that's a wonderful affirmation that the museum is recognized as a gem that belongs on campus," said Ann Mehr, a Lee Elementary School teacher who has brought many students to visit the museum facilities. "It's an academic museum, and it's meant to be used as an educational institute."

In his letter to the city council, Deaton called the museum "a treasure for our campus, and for our community and state as well."

"We do hope the temporary location of the Museum off Business Loop 70 and the available parking will attract more travelers than ever before and more community residents to view a collection that will have more space for display during this time away from the main campus," Deaton wrote in his letter to the council.
Scott Southwick, president of the board of the not-for-profit museum support organization Museum Associates, spoke about the museum plans during the public comment section of Monday's city council meeting and thanked council members for speaking out about the museums.

"That's a reassurance that so many fans of the museum had been wanting to hear," he said of Deaton's statement that the move would be temporary.

"There is something else fans of the museum want, and the letter addresses that, too," he added, referring to plans for a future new museum building. The current museum might be held as a gem, he said, but it is a small gem.

"Of the schools in the SEC that offer a graduate degree in art, MU's museum building is among the very smallest — not the collection, but square footage available to display that collection," Southwick told the council.

Deaton's letter said that because the council's letter noted a potential interest in a new facility for the museum, the university would be interested in exploring a fundraising partnership, much like the one that kept the Missouri Theatre operating downtown. Such a partnership, he wrote, might "involve our working together to attract private donors as well as possibly using city financing and/or resources."

Southwick said Museum Associates is forming a committee to support the idea of a public/private partnership.

The MU Faculty Council is planning a forum discussion of the upcoming renovations to Pickard, Swallow and Jesse halls from 3:30 to 5 p.m. July 17 at Jesse Wrench Auditorium in Memorial Union.

It will feature four presenters: Jackie Jones, vice chancellor of administrative services; Michael O'Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and director of the Museum of Anthropology; Alex Parker, director of the Museum of Art and Archaeology; and Ken Dean, deputy provost.
MU smoking ban takes full effect

With a Red Bull in hand instead of a cigarette, third-year law student Keith Holland stood outside Ellis Library next to a sign that announced the University of Missouri's first week as a smoke-free campus.

Holland said he knows smoking is unhealthy, but it's his personal choice.

On Monday, MU implemented its new smoke-free policy, a plan that had been in the works since Chancellor Brady Deaton in 2009 announced a plan to become a smoke-free campus within five years.

"People blare their music at Speaker's Circle, and I respect their First Amendment right even though I'm in class studying civil rights law and I need to concentrate. That's their right, and this is mine," he said of smoking.

In 2011, a transition phase took effect that allowed smoking only in designated areas — a move meant to give smokers "ample time to successfully quit smoking or make necessary adjustment to their smoking patterns," according to the Smoke-Free Mizzou website.

Holland said the new policy won't alter his habits, other than he won't be able to sneak outside between classes for a quick puff — there isn't an off-campus spot close enough.

Jasmyn Ofodile, an incoming freshman, said she was happy the campus became smoke-free.

"I think it'll be a healthier environment not to have smoking, and I won't have to deal with secondhand smoke," she said.
In terms of enforcement, Kevin Everett, associate professor of family and community medicine, said the university is encouraging people across campus to speak up to inform violators that MU is now smoke-free.

Everett said he thinks a simple reminder will be sufficient to get most people to stop smoking on campus. However, he said violators can be reported to a school's dean or the manager in charge of the nearest building.

Employees also can be reported to a supervisor or to human resources, where they would then be "brought under compliance," he said. Continual student offenders would be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

"I think we are primarily emphasizing bringing people to compliance," Everett said. "I think it's a lot easier now that campus is totally smoke-free and takes some of the confusion out about where you could or could not smoke."

Everett said cessation programs are offered to employees and students.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said with a transitory population, the university will have to constantly educate visitors and new students. He said during big events, signs will remind visitors that MU is a smoke-free campus.

"We're hopeful people will be compliant with the policy, especially after they're educated," Basi said.

Basi said he knows there is a concern with property owners near campus that their property will be inundated with cigarette butts.

"We would hope individuals would respect the property that is near the university and they would find an appropriate place to discard their cigarette butts," he said.
Gaming the grading system?

MU among schools that trumpet athletes' academic success, but critics say NCAA progress rate flawed.

By Steve Walentik

Sunday, July 7, 2013 at 2:00 am

The annual release of the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate is the day the governing body pats itself on the back.

"Student-athletes across Division I increased or maintained academic success across all sports," the NCAA announced on June 11.

It cited the most recent four-year Division I APR of 974, up one point over last year, and noted that the four-year rate rose two points in men's and women's basketball while holding steady in football and baseball.

"These are strong and meaningful academic standards, and we are pleased to witness the continued improvement of student-athletes' academic performance," NCAA President Mark Emmert said in the news release.

Missouri was one of the many schools celebrating along with Emmert. The school has shown well in APR since it was developed a decade ago as part of an NCAA effort to improve the graduation rates of college athletes while simultaneously holding schools accountable for academic failures.

The NCAA has stripped teams of scholarships for underperformance or, in severe cases, banned teams from postseason play. Last season, the Connecticut men's basketball team was kept out of the NCAA Tournament because of chronically low APR scores.

No Missouri team has faced punishment for falling below the minimum mark of 925.

In the latest figures, MU posted an average APR score of 989.37 — out of a possible 1,000 — in the 19 Southeastern Conference sports in which it participates. It posted the highest APR score in the league in four of those, including football. Four league-leading sports was second only to Vanderbilt, which is held up as the conference's academic crown jewel.

But critics of APR argue that high scores don't reflect the quality of education athletes receive.
The popular notion is that the APR is a meaningful metric of some sort of academic accomplishment. That's what the NCAA wants you to believe," said Gerald Gurney, an assistant professor of Adult and Higher Education at the University of Oklahoma and a past president of the National Association of Academic Advisers for Athletics with 31 years of experience in academic athletic support. "In fact, the APR is not a measure of graduation. It is merely a measure of how well the university retains an athlete and makes them eligible, per NCAA rules. That's all ... It doesn't say anything about academics or academic achievement."

Furthermore, people such as Gurney contend the use of the tool has unfairly punished schools that have fewer resources to spend on academic support, that it gives incentive for schools to steer athletes toward easier but less worthwhile majors and that it has contributed to greater instances of academic fraud.

The numbers are released every summer and held up against the marks from other sports and from other schools. Conference rankings are sorted out and, in the case of Alabama's football program, promoted. The Crimson Tide made a recruiting poster celebrating its "top-ranked" APR in football — never mind that SEC newcomer Missouri's football program scored higher, because the marks stemmed from a time when the Tigers were in the Big 12 Conference.

But few outside college athletic departments understand what APR measures or how it's calculated.

APR awards one point each year for every scholarship athlete who remains in school and one point for each athlete who remains academically eligible.

To be eligible per NCAA rules, athletes must pass six degree-countable hours at the end of the fall semester, 18 such hours at the end of the academic year and 24 hours by the end of their first year of enrollment — meaning after summer school ends. They then must continue to show progress toward a degree by completing 40 percent of their course work at the end of their second year, 60 percent by the end of their third year and 80 percent by the end of their fourth year while maintaining a minimum grade-point average throughout.

The total number of points in each sport is divided by the total number of points possible and then multiplied by 1,000 to arrive at that team's APR.

But the NCAA also allows for adjustments that help the numbers remain high. For example, schools do not lose retention points for athletes in good academic standing who leave school early to pursue professional careers or for players who transfer out of a program, provided those players have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.6.

Exceptions can also be made when athletes or members of their families become ill with incapacitating injuries or illnesses, and programs can boost their APR scores — and avoid penalties — by providing financial support for former players who haven't graduated to come back and finish their degrees.
"APR is a number that can be manipulated easily," David Ridpath, an associate professor in the department of sports administration at Ohio University and member of The Drake Group founded in 1999 to address academic corruption in college sports, wrote in an email exchange.

The NCAA, under pressure from the Knight Commission and others, voted in 2011 to raise the minimum standard to 930, saying that achieving that number predicted a 50 percent graduation rate.

But the governing body now tracks the number of athletes who graduate using the NCAA-created Graduation Success Rate, not the Federal Graduation Rate used by the Department of Education to track the percentage of students who earn degrees within six years of starting college.

It argues that GSR is a more accurate number because it takes into account athletes that leave school in good academic standing and might graduate elsewhere as well as athletes who transfer into an institution and receive their diplomas.

GSR is on average 17-20 points higher than the federal rate, and Gurney argues its use comes with one inherent problem: There is no equivalent formula used to track graduates among the general student population.

"There is no perfect standard. However, to use the Graduation Success Rate, in my mind, is the most flawed of all of the measures because it has nothing to compare it with," Gurney said. "You don't know if you're doing a good job. All you know is it's going to be higher because they give you an adjustment for students who transfer out, and those are nongraduates, and they should count against you."

Asked why he believes the NCAA has been so successful promoting the use of APR as academic reform, Gurney said: "I think that they have made it as complicated as possible to confuse the public. Then like any good lie, if you repeat it enough, people will start to believe it."

Connecticut's NCAA Tournament suspension last season created plenty of headlines, but punishment for such high-major programs has been rare since the NCAA began using APR.

Far more often, those teams facing sanctions have come from the historically black colleges and universities — HBCUs — in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

In the upcoming academic year, the baseball, football and men's basketball teams at Alabama State and Mississippi Valley State will be ineligible for the postseason along with the football program at Savannah State, the men's basketball programs at Grambling State and Arkansas-Pine Bluff, the men's track and field programs at Norfolk State and Southern and the women's volleyball programs at Alabama State and Florida A&M.
The outliers on the list are the men's basketball program at Florida International, now a member of Conference USA, and the men's and women's basketball teams at the New Orleans, which play in the Southland Conference.

HBCUs typically don't have the financial resources to fund large academic support staffs that can provide academic guidance and tutoring assistance or fill out the lengthy paperwork required to get exceptions from the NCAA. They also often cannot afford to pay for APR-aiding summer-school courses or for former athletes to return for additional coursework.

"It is not fair, but it does not mean the big schools are doing it with integrity," Ridpath wrote. "It just means they have more resources to do that. The smaller schools are certainly at a disadvantage in this scenario, but overall it is not a system that promotes true academic integrity — just keeping kids eligible to play is the main goal."

Because the NCAA has taken steps to punish schools for underperformance in APR, people who provide academic services to athletes are under pressure to keep the scores high, and Gurney believes that has contributed to what he said are "more than double the amount of major academic dishonesty cases" that have arisen over the past decade.

The University of North Carolina has been embroiled in one such scandal. The Raleigh News & Observer reported that the school's African and Afro-American studies department had "a cozy relationship with the program that tutored athletes" and discovered instances where athletes benefitted from unauthorized grade changes and received grades despite limited or no class time, though an independent review suggested the wrongdoing wasn't limited to athletics.

Even if schools don’t engage in academic fraud, they often direct athletes into friendly majors — a practice called clustering — where they find it easier to remain eligible because of helpful faculty members and easier coursework.

"I think the institution also has the responsibility of looking at the quality of education these athletes are getting," Gurney said. "For example, if you're at Texas A&M and you're an inner-urban or an urban kid from Houston, you may be majoring in agricultural general studies, so I would ask you, 'What is the quality of that education for a student from the city to go into that major?' If you're at Virginia and you're a football player, you're going to major in sociology. And I can go on and on.

"All of the sudden we have seen general studies majors. If you're at the University of Michigan, 78 percent of their juniors and seniors are majoring in general studies. What is the quality of that degree? Do these people have meaningful training to go out and do something with their lives? I think it’s doubtful."

Gurney said it's up to faculty members to ensure their schools' academic programs are adequately rigorous.

"I think too often faculty sort of abdicate this very important responsibility for the interest of athletics," Gurney said. "I'm not suggesting that Missouri does that. I don't believe they do."
Missouri's athletic department takes pride in its academic track record.

"We have our No. 1 core value being academic integrity, and it's not something that we just talk about. We actually live that," said Tami Chievous, who was promoted to assistant director of academic services in May and has spent 12 years in academic support at the school. "It starts with Mike Alden from the top through everybody else that works in the athletic department just setting that tone that we're not going to jeopardize academics for anything."

The school has seven full-time academic coordinators and eight graduate assistants who work with professors around campus to monitor athletes' academic progress.

Athletes say it is a constant emphasis throughout the year with monitored class attendance and mandatory study halls and help from tutors when necessary.

"The coaches are on us about it," said junior basketball player Jabari Brown, who received the Outstanding Student-Athlete Award at this year's season-ending team banquet. "Tami, I feel like she's very good. I feel like without her, it'd be kind of tough to stay on top of all our stuff, but she makes it easy for us, especially when we're on the road. She makes sure we know what we've got to be on top of."

MU athletic department officials can cite numbers other than APR as evidence of their academic success. The school's federal graduation rate for athletes has risen steadily over the past seven years, from 60 percent for athletes who entered college in 1999 to 76 percent in the most recent figures from the freshman class of 2005. The latter figure is seven points better than the graduation rate for Missouri's general student population.

Missouri is also doing a good job of graduating athletes in the revenue-producing sports of football and men's basketball, which often lag behind. Missouri football players graduated at 67 percent in the most recent report, including 43 percent of African-American players — both figures that are similar to the numbers for the general student population.

"This is not something that's solved," said Harry Tyrer, a professor in the electrical and computer engineering department who serves as the chair of the MU Faculty Council. "This is something that's ongoing and people continue doing it, but I think that for the most part people would agree that the approach the athletic department is taking is providing useful results, and we would like for them to continue and improve on that."

As for how to reduce academic corruption in college athletics, Ridpath and The Drake Group argue for greater transparency that would result in more accountability.

Schools today can use the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act — FERPA, which is intended to protect student records — to hide questionable academic practices such as clustering.

A proposal made by The Drake Group for greater accountability said, "Academic evidence of the quality of education being given athletes would enable faculty members and administrators to monitor grade inflation and the educational practices that affect the quality of an institution's degrees."
Renovations to Mizzou athletic facilities in full swing

By TEREZA A. PAYLOR

COLUMBIA — When Don Walsworth found out the University of Missouri’s Board of Curators unanimously voted to name its new golf facility “The Walsworth Family Golf Complex,” a sense of pride washed over him.

The news, which came on June 13, was hardly unexpected, considering Walsworth and his wife, Audrey, asked that a portion of their recent $8.3 million donation to the athletic department go toward building a new clubhouse at Old Hawthorne Golf Course.

But for the Walsworths, whose son and daughter also played golf at Missouri, having the family name on the complex — which is scheduled to be completed in September — was about leaving a lasting legacy at the university they love.

“I’d be remiss if I didn’t say I felt very proud of that situation,” said Walsworth, a former MU curator whose family has now given $14 million to Missouri athletics. “It involved not only my wife and myself, but it involved our children. It says ‘The Walsworth Family,’ and that’s what really made me feel good, because I knew this was going to be something that’s going to be there for many, many years.”

The Walsworth family’s latest contribution came on the heels of an anonymous $6.4 million donation last December and a $30 million donation by a group called the Kansas City Sports Trust in June 2012, which the school used as a platform to announce a sweeping two-phase, $200 million master plan to improve the school’s athletic facilities.

In all, that’s nearly $45 million in donations the athletic department has received since the school announced its move to the Southeastern Conference in November 2011. Walsworth says that isn’t a coincidence.

“I think (the move to the SEC) played a major role in generating people to step up and donate,” Walsworth said.
“In my opinion, when Missouri went into the SEC, we didn’t have quite the facilities that most of the schools in the SEC had. So I think its imperative that we start upgrading our facilities, and I know (athletic director) Mike Alden concurs 100 percent.”

Along with the increased revenue the transition to the SEC is expected to bring in upcoming years — good luck finding anyone who doesn’t think the SEC Network will be a cash cow — that’s why there’s a ton of construction happening around campus. The first phase of the announced master plan, totaling $72 million, is already well underway.

The most visible changes are happening at Memorial Stadium, where a $9.75 million renovation to the west-side press box is expected to be completed by September.

The renovation will include more suites and a new press level. Crews have also been working on a project to widen the north end zone concourse — which will give fans more room to move about during pregame and halftime — by pushing the traditional “Rock M” and grass closer to the field, a task that is also expected to be done in time for the season.

“The rock is all installed and it looks great; it’s going to give it a little different feel,” said Chad Moller, an associate athletic director at MU. “It will feel a little more intimate, but fans will still be able to sit on the hill. That’s a big tradition. We’d never look to change that.”

Moller added there won’t be any bleachers on the field level and they won’t add extra bleachers in the concourse, as they’ve done in the past. This, plus the ongoing construction on the east side of the stadium, will lead to a lower capacity this season. Memorial Stadium previously held 71,004.

“We’re still figuring the number out, but it’s going to be less,” Moller said. “We know that.”

The east-side renovation — a plan that Alden predicts will “change the skyline of Columbia” — is a $45.6 million project that will add more than 4,500 upper-deck seats and 1,200 premium seats. That phase is now expected to be completed before the 2014 season, after originally being given a conservative target date of August 2015.

“You can attribute that to, in a generic sense, mostly plans for funding coming along at a very quick pace,” Moller said. “That allowed us to expedite the design plans.”

The baseball team’s home field, Taylor Stadium, is also undergoing a renovation, as coach Tim Jamieson’s program will get a boost from a renovated clubhouse that is expected to be completed by next season. The $4 million clubhouse will feature a new locker room, meeting rooms, coaches offices and coaches’ locker room.

Softball, meanwhile, has arguably enjoyed the most success of any of the school’s sports in recent years, and that’s played a part in the school’s recent efforts to build the team a new stadium. Associate athletic director Tim Hickman has said the stadium will likely cost in the neighborhood of $15 million, adding that it would be nice if the stadium is ready in time for the 2015 SEC softball tournament, which Missouri is slated to host.
Fundraising still needs to be done, however, and a site has yet to be determined.

"The desire of everyone is to build a new facility, so that’s how we hope to be able to proceed," Moller said. "But a decision has got to be made on the site and we have to go through the formal approval process with the Board of Curators. Once you do that, you can come up with design plans, start turning dirt and get moving."

Meanwhile, renovations at the Green Tennis Center — which will add outdoor bleacher seats and a ground-level building featuring new locker rooms, concessions, offices and bathrooms — are expected to be done by next spring.

Then, of course, there’s golf. Walsworth can take pride in knowing the $1.4 million clubhouse currently under construction — which will feature offices, locker rooms, indoor hitting bays and the latest in swing instruction technology for both the men’s and women’s teams — will give Missouri one of the best golfing facilities in the country.

"You sure as (heck) can’t go play golf in January and February and December, so we had to create a practice facility so that they can still enhance their game and compete at the highest level when the season comes around," Walsworth said.

The project is scheduled for completion by September.

"Right now, it’s scheduled to be dedicated I think on Sept. 27, the Friday before the Arkansas State (football) game," Walsworth said. "We’re looking forward to that."

But not as much as he’s looking forward to the future, overall, for all Missouri sports.

"It’s very difficult to get much more money out of the general assembly in Jefferson City," Walsworth said, "so people are going to have to step forward with donations to help fund the university. I hope this is just the beginning."
Editorial: Why do other SEC states care more about students than Missouri?

July 05, 2013 6:00 am • By the Editorial Board

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Here’s a question for Missouri lawmakers to ponder until their next legislative session begins in January:

Why should high school students in Georgia and Tennessee have more HOPE that they will be able to attend a state college than students right here in the Show-Me State?

Those two Southern states, new Southeastern Conference (SEC) rivals for the Tigers in all things athletic, have something Missouri doesn’t have: an in-state scholarship program (called HOPE) offering up to $6,000 for students with good grades who want to go to a state university.

In fact, eight of the 13 other SEC schools have significantly more generous scholarship programs for their states’ residents than does Missouri. The Tigers appear to bring up the league-wide rear in that department.

The revelation came in a story by the Columbia Tribune’s Ross Dellenger last Sunday examining why the Tigers might struggle to compete against SEC brethren in the nonrevenue sports like golf, wrestling, track, baseball and softball. The reason is that legislatures in most of the states that make up the SEC have made it a priority to help students obtain a higher education.

Such scholarships help coaches cobbled together aid to attract athletes in the nonrevenue sports. But the story has implications far beyond sports.

As state Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, told Mr. Dellenger, the disparity is “another indication of the state of Missouri’s unwillingness to meet its obligation to fund higher education.”

Missouri’s two main academic-based scholarship programs for higher education are Bright Flight and the A+ program. Both are good, but both are also significantly limited and underfunded. Bright Flight gives about $2,000 to the top 3 percent of Missouri students who also have qualifying ACT scores. The A+ program provides a full two years of tuition to a community college for students who complete the program. They must keep their grades up and perform public service in high school.

The programs don’t measure up financially to those available in Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi (home to two SEC programs) and Florida.

Yes, those states are sports rivals. But they’re also economic rivals; when companies look for educated in the future, they’ll have a leg up on Missouri.
But that's not the only place where Missouri falls short. No matter how you define support for higher education, Missouri's is among the lowest in the nation, according to the State Higher Education Officers Association yearly reports.

Missouri's per capita funding (the amount of taxpayer support based on population), is $190 per person, lower than all but Colorado, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire.

If you adjust for personal income, taking into account the low Midwestern cost of living, Missouri does even worse, ranking better than only five states.

As a percentage of its state budget, Missouri is spending less on higher education than it did a decade ago.

What this means is that students and their parents must bear more of the cost of a college education. It also means that other states are targeting Missouri students, and not just athletes. That's hurting efforts to keep the best and brightest at home.

When student loan interest rates doubled this week because of congressional inaction, it was students in states that aren't funding higher education who got hit the worst.

That means Missouri students are struggling today more than they already were, and they are doing proportionately worse than their colleagues in other SEC states.

*The sports context is an appropriate one to discuss higher education funding. If you've ever been in the Missouri Capitol on a day when coaches or athletes from the University of Missouri visit, you know that lawmakers fawn over them like a free meal from a lobbyist.*

You want bipartisanship? Check the Missouri Ethics Commission records and see which lawmakers are accepting tickets to free Tigers' basketball and football games, while simultaneously standing in the way of proper funding for the schools.

For years, Missouri has been near the bottom of the barrel in terms of funding higher education. Lawmakers have made no serious attempts to fix the problem. This applies to all state college and universities, but maybe explaining it in terms of Mizzou athletics will help lawmakers understand.

The schools of the SEC are all showing a greater commitment to in-state students than Missouri is. The Tigers are in the SEC cellar.

Is that where the Missouri Legislature wants them to be?
Mizzou's move to SEC has been good for business

July 06, 2013 12:00 am • By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

COLUMBIA, Mo. • In 2002, Greg and Cheryl Jarvis had a taste for chicken. Not just any chicken. They craved Zaxby's, the “fast casual” restaurant chain that's popular across the Southeast. The Columbia couple wanted to bring the company north to Missouri.

Greg had family in Atlanta and just south of Athens, Ga., home of the University of Georgia and Zaxby's corporate headquarters. Cheryl's son, Logan Gray, would go on to play football at Georgia from 2007-10.

"Every time we'd go down south, everybody's eating at Zaxby's," Greg said.

The couple contacted the company about opening a restaurant in Columbia. At the time, Zaxby's franchises were spreading west, reaching Louisiana and Arkansas.

"They told us it was just too early," Greg said.

Skip ahead to 2012. As the University of Missouri became the newest member of the Southeastern Conference, the Jarves tried again with Zaxby's.

This time, the chain listened, especially after several franchise owners flew their private planes into Columbia and experienced Mizzou's first authentic SEC football weekend.

Georgia beat the Tigers 41-20 last September, but it was hardly a loss for Columbia's bustling downtown as Georgia supporters joined the horde of Mizzou fans in the city's bars, hotels, stores and restaurants.

"They were blown away by Columbia and how great the market was," Greg said. "The next Monday, Zaxby's franchising division called and said, 'You guys need to get down here immediately. ... Our phone's ringing off the hook.' Other franchise owners wanted to lock up the territory."

Monday marked Missouri's first full year in the SEC, and for now, one clear winner has emerged: the city of Columbia's business community.

The Jarves are opening two Zaxby's locations in Columbia and another in Jefferson City. Another franchise owner is opening two more in Columbia, plus another in Jeff City. The Jarves' first location, just two miles south of Faurot Field on Providence Road, should be selling chicken by Halloween.

The restaurant chain was "very interested in Columbia because of Mizzou joining the SEC," Greg said. "That definitely gave the whole situation some horsepower, no doubt."
The sec effect

Next month, MU, the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau and the local Chamber of Commerce will release the results of a joint economic impact study, which will shed light on the SEC’s influence on the local economy, particularly the impact of four conference home football games, when fans from Georgia, Alabama, and to a lesser degree, Kentucky and Vanderbilt, visited Columbia. (Georgia and Alabama attracted sold-out crowds; the other two produced average crowds of 67,052 at a stadium with a capacity of 71,004.)

Amy Schneider, director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, expects the study to show a significant boost for local business.

“If you take the Georgia game, you absolutely saw more impact on the flights (coming into Columbia Regional Airport), commercial as well as charter,” she said. “You saw a lot more RV business come into town. We had people coming in that Wednesday from Georgia. So, the out-of-state visitors came in for a much longer period of time.”

And spent more money. According to figures provided by the city’s finance department, sales taxes collected from all city businesses increased in September, October and November from the previous year. Also, hotel lodging taxes increased each month, as much as 11.6 percent for October.

Some of that increase was surely related to Mizzou playing three home games in September and October 2012 compared to just two each month in 2011. But local September sales taxes increased 12.2 percent from 2010, the last time Mizzou played three September home games. In October, when MU played host to Vanderbilt, Alabama and Kentucky, hotel lodging taxes increased 23.2 percent from 2007, the last time the Tigers played three October home games.

Columbia’s 35 hotels generated $224,111 in lodging taxes last October — by far the most for any month over the last five years.

“The hotels and hotel taxes were hit after (the recession in) 2008, and it took a couple years to rebound,” Schneider said. “But once they started, they were making a slow growth, and you can absolutely see a much bigger bump.”

There’s demand for more rooms as two new hotels are under construction: The Regency downtown is being rebuilt into a DoubleTree by Hilton, and a Holiday Inn Express is popping up along Highway 63.

The impact was felt at the airport, too. Central Missouri Aviation general manager Randy Clark said 60 to 70 private planes carrying fans from Georgia and Alabama flew into Columbia on the weekends their teams played Mizzou. Those figures were comparable, Clark said, to the traffic that came in from Texas and Oklahoma during MU’s time in the Big 12.

Fans on private planes have to pay landing fees and purchase fuel at the local fixed-base operator, which pumps more money into the local economy.

“There’s some novelty for these schools coming to Columbia for the first time,” Clark said. “Two or three years down the road, the interest may not be there. Who knows?”
Southern charm

Zaxby's isn't the only new business with SEC roots. Nash Vegas, a self-described "hometown honky tonk hotspot," opened in April downtown. With its obvious Southern influences, the bar features local and national country artists.

Kristi Ray, executive vice president at the chamber of commerce, pointed to two more businesses that opened last fall that have capitalized on the SEC move: Cheddar's Casual Café, a restaurant chain launched in Texas and spread across the South, and Rally House, a collegiate apparel retailer based out of Kansas.

Another longtime local business is undergoing a significant change with the SEC in mind. Déjà Vu Comedy Club, a staple in the downtown nightlife scene for almost 40 years, plans to convert 50 percent of its nightclub space into a sports bar, managing partner Matt Istwan said.

"We're going to rebrand the business and go after that SEC crowd," Istwan said.

Is the local boost sustainable? As always, other economic factors will matter, though severe national trends don't affect Columbia as much as other Missouri cities.

"With the huge influence we have with the university, we tend to be more stable than the rest of the state," city finance director John Blattel said. "When the economy goes down, we don't go down as bad."

Why not? Mizzou's student population — with a fall 2012 enrollment of 32,651 — gives the local economy a stabilizing force.

"The students tend to spend," Blattel said. "They get money from somewhere, whether it's parents or student loans or whatever."

As for this fall, four SEC football teams will visit, including three that have never played in Columbia: Florida, South Carolina and Tennessee. (Texas A&M, a former Big 12 member and frequent Columbia visitor, is the fourth.)

As of now, Mizzou officials aren't expecting visiting crowds as big as last year's from Georgia and Alabama, but the business community is hopeful the surge will continue.

"I truly believe the SEC teams travel so well that they're not going to come here one year and say, 'OK, now we've been to Columbia,'" Ray said. "By all indications, and this year didn't disappoint, we're going to see additional travelers from the SEC over what we saw in the Big 12."
Putting Karl Marx into context

Reviewed by Robert J. Dobie

As the subtitle of this new biography indicates, Jonathan Sperber, a professor of Central European history at the University of Missouri, proposes to place Marx's life and thought squarely within their 19th-century context. For too long, Sperber argues, the various images or "icons" of Marx as prophet, visionary, or anti-Christ have obscured what is truly interesting and unique about his life and thought.

Sperber even claims that it may help our understanding of Marx's life and thought to see him as a "backward-looking" figure, for whom, to give just one example, the French Revolutions of 1789 and 1792 remained the models of historical change and revolution.

Sperber also aims to show that Marx was very much a creature of the 19th century in his lifelong devotion to the philosophy of Hegel, which he had imbibed as a student at the University of Berlin in the 1830s. Hegel had argued that objective phenomena can only be understood in relation to a historically evolving self-consciousness. But another philosophy, positivism, which claimed that the natural sciences alone deliver genuine knowledge, came to eclipse the philosophy of Hegel.

Marx himself was impressed by the claims of positivism and he conducted his work in economics in the positivist spirit. Nevertheless, as a Hegelian, Marx always maintained a critical distance from positivism. Thus, while Marx was impressed upon reading Darwin and welcomed his work as a blow against religion, it seemed to him that "Darwin had transposed the struggle for existence in English laissez-faire capitalism into the natural world, so Darwinists saw this as reason 'for human society never to emancipate itself from its bestiality.'"

Likewise, in his masterwork, Capital, Marx stays firmly within the conceptual world of early 19th-century political economy. Nevertheless, in his economics Marx strove to uncover what he called the secret (Geheimnis) or inner logic of the capitalist system and thus transcend it in both thought and action. So, while Marx was certainly a creature of the 19th century, he was not a prisoner of it, a fact that challenges Sperber's main thesis.

For the general reader, however, some of the most interesting passages concern Marx's private life. Sperber's book contains harrowing accounts of the misery and poverty of the Marx family's early years of exile in London. A salient feature of Marx the man was his love for his children. There is an account of how Marx and a political colleague one day played "cavalry" with Marx's daughters riding on their backs. And despite the Marxes' dire poverty, Karl and wife Jenny made
every effort to educate their daughters as proper young bourgeois "ladies." Moreover, off-color jokes and bawdy songs were strictly off-limits in the Marx household.

To us today, an unconventional lifestyle is often seen as proof of the authenticity of one's political convictions. But this was not the case in Marx's day. Marx's friend, colleague, and collaborator, Friedrich Engels, had the much more bohemian lifestyle of the two friends, living openly with a working-class Irish mistress and then, after her death, with her sister. But as a result, Engels became deeply unpopular with Marx's working-class associates, for whom sexual license and capitalist exploitation went hand in hand.

Finally, at the center of Marx's personal life was his wife Jenny. This marriage was later romanticized as a sort of 19th-century West Side Story: she the beautiful Prussian aristocrat, he the scholarly Jew. In reality, as Sperber points out, Karl's father, Heinrich, was a prosperous and well-respected lawyer in Trier and a Protestant convert; the von Westphalens were minor nobility of very recent origin and of modest means. And as far as Marx being Jewish was concerned, Sperber notes that "Jewishness" at the time was understood entirely in religious and cultural terms - racial notions of Jewishness would not emerge until the end of Marx's life. So any social obstacles to the marriage were few.

Nevertheless, whatever the difficulties married life brought to Karl and Jenny - and the stresses of exile, poverty, the death of five of their children, and Karl's fathering of an illegitimate son by the family servant certainly put severe strains on their marriage - the two remained deeply in love with each other until the end, with Jenny functioning not only as her husband's secretary but also as his confidant.

Sperber's biography provides a vivid, well-researched, and thought-provoking window not only into the life of a history-changing individual but also into another thought-world, so similar and yet so strangely different from our own.
Intern pay issue gets attention

Schools say experience, not money, is the purpose.

By Karyn Spory

Sunday, July 7, 2013 at 2:00 am

Summer is the season when many college students become interns, but a recent court ruling has employers and schools double-checking the legality of such opportunities.

In June, a federal judge in New York ruled that Fox Searchlight Pictures, a film distribution company, did not compensate two of its interns accordingly. The judge decided the internships did not "foster an educational environment" and the interns were working essentially as regular employees. The ruling has sparked conversation about the legality of unpaid internships.

Stephens College views internships as an instructional learning experience, President Dianne Lynch said, and most of the school's departments require students to take part in an internship.

Lynch said although students would always prefer to be paid, "it really is about the quality of the learning experience."

She said she hopes the judge's decision makes a difference by confirming that internships are learning experiences, rather than unpaid labor.

"There is a significant difference between an intern who does the kinds of things those interns did in their experience and the kind of internship that is meeting the requirements and the obligations of an internship," Lynch said.

Margrace Buckler, human resources director for the city of Columbia, said internships for the city are done on a department-by-department basis.

"Departments have been allowed to do their own thing, but that may change because of this decision," Buckler said.

Many of the city's interns come from the University of Missouri, Buckler said, and they are credited as temporary employees. "They come to work for the experience, ... but they are paid," she said.

She said since the judge's decision, she has reviewed the internship programs under the Fair Labor Standards Act. "We want to make sure we're not having an internship program that is inappropriate," she said.
Mary Beth Marrs, associate dean of undergraduate programs and strategic initiatives at MU’s Trulaske College of Business, said all students in the business school are required to complete a minimum of 120 hours at an internship. Marrs said last year, 65 percent of the internships were paid.

She said unpaid internships are often done at smaller for-profit, young companies or not-for-profit organizations.

"Students are able to see multiple aspects of a business as a result, and for many of our students, working in a non-profit environment is very rewarding," she said in an email.

Marrs said when it comes to paid or unpaid internships, the college evaluates placements to make sure they meet labor standards "as well as meeting our expectations as good business partners."

Sophia Mullineaux, a senior business administration major at MU, is completing a paid internship at Hallmark in Kansas City. She said she likes the personal connection the company fosters, and her responsibilities include processing and scheduling audits and creating financial models, among other duties.

"I was looking for an internship with a company I admired and one that would give me the best experience. It was a nice benefit that it was paid," Mullineaux said in an email.

Emily Collette, a senior film major at Stephens, recently returned from an internship in Thailand, where she worked on a documentary about elephant sanctuaries. Collette said although her internship was unpaid, her housing and meals were provided.

I applied for over 30 internships, and this was my No. 1 choice," she said in an email. "I decided to look for the best learning opportunity. If it happened to be paid, that would be a bonus, but I didn't expect it."

PUT TO THE TEST

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division details what constitutes an internship program under the Fair Labor Standards Act, including six criteria that determine whether it may be unpaid:

• The internship, even though it includes actual operations of the employer, is similar to training given in an educational environment.

• The experience is for the intern’s benefit.

• The intern does not displace regular employees but works under close supervision of existing staff.

• The employer derives no immediate advantage from the intern’s activities; on occasion, its operations may be impeded.

• The intern is not necessarily entitled to a job post-internship.

• The employer and the intern understand the intern is not entitled to wages.
Regional public colleges still pursue minority students, but carefully

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

The Kansas City Star

The region's public colleges say their creativity in attracting minority students means the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on affirmative action won't force them to change policies.

That's because, they said, race plays no role in whom they admit to their schools and whom they don't.

But admitting more minority students is still a key mission. So admission officers turn to different methods like targeted recruitment to bring qualified minority students to their schools.

"I think that any public research institution that is using race as a factor in admissions needs to go back and review what they are doing," said Mel Tyler, vice chancellor of student affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. "There are plenty of qualified minority students out there.... Race should not be a factor."

The Supreme Court ruling in June on a case about admissions at the University of Texas didn't forbid considering race in admission, but called for "tough scrutiny," saying schools must prove there are "no race-neutral alternatives" to achieve diversity on campus.

For the most part, officials at UMKC, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and the University of Missouri in Columbia said that any student who meets the basic criteria for admission will get in.

In general, those requirements in Kansas are at least a 2.0 grade point average, a 21 ACT score or rank in the top third of a graduating class. In Missouri residents who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class and meet the 17 core curriculum requirements can get in regardless of standardized test score. But the lower the class rank, the higher the test score needed for admission.

Still, diversity is important.
"By the year 2030 Missouri and Kansas will be 50/50 states, meaning that population that is now minority will make up 50 percent of the population," Tyler said. "Schools need to prepare for that demographic shift."

So how do you get more minority students on campus without considering race in admissions?

"Good question," said Pat Bosco, vice president for student life and dean of students at Kansas State University.

His answer is to encourage more minority students to apply, then open your door for all the applicants who meet the basic criteria.

"We are more in the recruitment business than the selection business," Bosco said.

He said K-State, like the other schools in the Kansas City area, recruits in areas where it is most likely to reach first-generation and minority students. Then the university aims to give those students the financial assistance and academic support to guide them to graduation.

"K-State is an output school, not an input school," Bosco said. "We are not spending time on selection, but we are spending time showing students how they can be successful once they get here. We don’t just throw them in the pond and hope they swim."

KU goes after minority students in a similar way.

"The Office of Admissions coordinates a variety of recruitment events each year to target students of color," said Lisa Pinamonti Kress, office director.

Some of that effort at KU takes the form of college introductions for middle-schoolers, Multicultural High School Day, and conferences aimed at black, Asian and Latino leaders.

Kress said the university even has a multicultural recruitment team made up of current KU students who write to, call and meet prospective students.

At the University of Missouri in Columbia, admissions director Barbara Rupp said minority enrollment has grown over the past 10 years thanks to beefed-up recruitment efforts, including looking for qualified students in Kansas City, St. Louis and out of state, particularly in Chicago.

"We got smarter and more proactive in the state of Missouri," Rupp said.

Without directly using race or ethnicity to determine admission, first-time African-American freshmen admitted on the Columbia campus went from 209 in 2002, when African-American students were 5.6 percent of the overall student body, to 657 new admissions last year — more than 8 percent of the student body.
Admission of other minority groups also increased over the years. The university admitted only 70 new Hispanic freshmen in 2002 but 232 in 2012.

At K-State, the number of minority student applicants has increased in the last five years, from 918 in 2007 to 1,554 in 2012.

UMKC has seen a 77.5 percent increase in minority student enrollment in the last 10 years, Tyler said, referring to American Indian, Asian, black and Hispanic students.

Jim Rawlins, president of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, said the only time race might come into play when admitting students at most public schools is when a student’s academic profile falls a bit shy of the automatic acceptance criteria set at public colleges.

Schools admit a limited pool of students who don’t meet all the academic criteria but have other qualities that would make them a good addition to the student body, Rawlins said.

At the University of Missouri system’s four campuses, for instance, 10 percent of students can come in on academic probation. He said diversity might come into play when schools fill those slots.

Rupp said the system’s schools consider extenuating circumstances, like a death or divorce that might have knocked a student off track academically during their high school years.

“We look at whether a student was working a lot of hours to help the family meet ends, and many times those students are from minority groups,” Rupp said.

But Rawlins said that since the Supreme Court sidestepped a decision about affirmative action in the University of Texas case and tossed it back to the lower courts, it left a lot of room for higher-education officials to interpret varying meanings from its action.

Justices didn’t say all consideration of race in admission is wrong. For some, Rawlins said, that means “an institution that wants to use race in admissions would have to be able to withstand close scrutiny.”

What concerns Rawlins and other admission officials is that some minority students might misinterpret the court’s ruling and decide not to apply to certain schools or even attend college fairs.

“Our first challenge now is to clear up the misconceptions about admissions and get students to come to these events,” Rawlins said.

And what bothers him most is what has not been a prominent part of this discussion, he said, “that very capable minority students face horrible stigma that they got into college because of their race rather than because of their academic excellence.”
Youth exchange between Chinese, Missouri students is a success

July 06, 2013 12:00 am

In the last two weeks of June, the seeds of what could become greater international diplomacy were planted on the campus of the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. Side-by-side, smile-by-smile, with the youthful ease and curiosity of teenagers who know no borders, a group of 36 students from China took part in the Missouri Boys State and Missouri Girls State programs. In its illustrious 78-year history, the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has shaped some of our nation's most notable leaders.

At the core of these youth leadership programs is the fundamental belief that the individual has the power to change the world, no matter their background or station in life. Amazing things happen then, when one has the opportunity to gather such forward thinkers together, with hearts and minds that possess a collective desire to rise to their own level of leadership. I am tremendously proud to have been involved in such a convening.

The US-China Youth Leadership Exchange under the direction of the Midwest US-China Association, afforded 36 young Chinese men and women from 11 different provinces and municipalities across China the opportunity to immerse themselves in a decidedly American experience, alongside some of Missouri’s highest achieving students. Conversely, their Missouri colleagues had the chance to learn what it’s like to be a young person in China. At the end of the day, and by the end of the two weeks at UCM, often the most animated conversations swirled around pop culture, trends in music, entertainment, fashion and technology. Teens will, after all, be teens.

Perhaps herein lies the greatest benefit. Far too often, doubt and suspicion fills the space where understanding and familiarity could reside. Commerce, indeed peace accords, become much easier to broker when one has the benefit of knowledge. It is the ardent hope of everyone involved in this inaugural US-China Youth Leadership Exchange that the insight gained from this cultural cross-pollination might some day yield life-long friendships, educational or business opportunities and a broader global vision, not only for these individuals involved, but for everyone with whom they come into contact.

We commend the American Legion Missouri Boys State, the American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State, the University of Central Missouri and the Beijing Language and Culture Institute for sharing this vision. The Midwest US-China Association remains indebted also to the Confucius Institutes of University of Missouri-Columbia and Webster University, The Edgar Snow Foundation at the
University of Missouri-Kansas City, American Airlines and Emerson, whose support made this first-ever youth leadership exchange a resounding success.

Bob Holden